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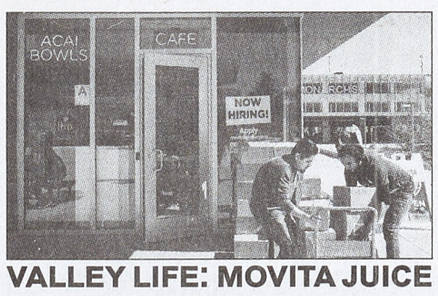


VALLEY LIFE: MOVITA JUICE

THE LION CAFE IS NOW HOME TO A JUICE BAR WITH HEALTHIER OPTIONS.

the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

OPINION: RIGHT TO DIE

TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE HOW THEY DIE.

VOLUME 89, ISSUE 2 | VALLEY STAR MARCH 12, 2019 | WWW.THEVALLEYSTARNEWS.COM

New ASU takes shape

The ASU filled the majority of vacant positions.

TATE COAN
ONLINE EDITOR

After over three weeks of having only five sitting council members, the ASU filled over half of their open positions.

At the ASU's meeting Feb. 26, the council appointed a treasurer; secretary; and commissioners of fine arts, health and safety concerns, political and external affairs, social media and student life. With many different backgrounds and qualifications, the newbies have brought some diversity to the mix.

The new treasurer, freshman Angelica Simityan, was voted in unanimously due to her math-related qualifications. The Van Nuys High School graduate started at Valley in the fall and is majoring in aerospace engineering.

"I came to the ASU and saw what a great environment it was and how it was filled with inspiring and motivated individuals," said Simityan. "I immediately wanted to volunteer in order to do as much as possible until I was able to have a position in the student government."

A second applicant for the treasurer position was Ani Apikyan. The 17-year-old was denied the position but was voted in unanimously as commissioner of political and external affairs. The business administration major plans to go to law school and has previously worked as an intern for Rep. Tony Cardenas.

Apikyan said she applied for a position on ASU because she wants "to help the students of LAVC to the best of [her] abilities ... and to improve students' college experience."

The new commissioner of fine arts, first-year student Angela Darpinian, wants to learn and succeed in her new position to inspire youth to do the same.

"I'd love to major in the 'pursuit of happiness' if it ever existed," said Darpinian, 18, "but it's Art History instead."

Another woman who wants to help others in her new position is commissioner of social media, Evelyn Soriano, a physics major who started at Valley in 2017. After she attended an ASU conference last semester, Soriano said she "learned leadership skills and discovered the need [she] has to help others."

In her fourth year attending Valley, Maricela Pena decided to join ASU because she wants to "encourage students to build community on campus and take advantage of ASU resources." Pena was appointed commissioner of student life.

Elen Sargsyan, originally applied for the parliamentary position, but was unanimously appointed as the commissioner of health and safety concerns. This was due to her previous volunteer work involving health issues at USC.

On Feb. 28, two students were voted in by the Inter-Club Council to become the new ICC Representatives. Aidan Christopher Boyles was voted in by a majority, and Sam Arias was appointed unanimously.

The ASU will be accepting applications from students wishing to run for office in the fall semester until March 22.

VALLEY STAR | APET SUKIASYAN

BASEBALL- The Monarchs managed to score a huge win against West Los Angeles College on March 5, defeating their opponents a devastating 22-1.

Low enrollment leads to fewer classes

Valley College enrollment numbers have been declining, leading to cancellation of a high number of classes.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A gradual decline in enrollment at Valley College has led to a slew of classes being canceled across multiple departments.

Since the 2015-16 school year, Valley has experienced a slow drop in enrollment. According to data from the Los Angeles Community College District, 27,959 students were enrolled during that time, as opposed to the 26,658 enrolled in the 2017-18 school year. The dip has led to many classes with a low number of students to be canceled, which have hurt several departments.

According to William Wallis, the English department chair, the school has cut 90 classes this semester, which he says accounts for approximately 11 or 12 percent of the total number of classes; his department alone accounts for 15 of them. However, half of those classes were basic skills courses that were archived due to the passage of Assembly Bill 705, which stipulates that a community college must maximize the possibility that a student will complete their transfer-level English and math courses within a one-year timeframe.

The English department is working with affected students. Cutting classes does not hurt a single student, according to Wallis, but he did note that the smaller number of classes has negatively impacted a large majority of his faculty. The English department has 14 full-time faculty members and over 50 adjuncts. In the fall, every adjunct had two classes, but cancellations this semester has severely cut into that.

"This spring, almost everybody has one, so cut your income in half," said Wallis. "That's a problem, and it was painful; it's painful to do, it's painful to see."

The art department had around four classes canceled: Art 101, 111, 112 and a studio art class. According to art Department Chair Eugenia Sumnik-Levins, although there are still several sections of Art 101, canceling one of them is almost unheard of.

"For the art history class, the contemporary art class and the current art events class, [students] have no option," Eugenia said. "If they're transferring to a UC, they're just not getting the breadth that they need."

History, humanities, law, political science (HHLPS) Department Chair Michelle Lewis said six classes were cut, and noted that her department faculty seems to have been teaching fewer classes over the past two years. Although Lewis said there are plenty of options for affected students, the cuts hurt the faculty the most, particularly the part-time faculty.

"They're the ones that are really hurt when we have to cut classes," Lewis said, "because for them, it's their job."

According to Dean of Academic Affairs Matthew Jordan, classes with at least 15 students enrolled are considered "safe." A few weeks before each semester starts, each class is reviewed to see if they meet a certain threshold, such as having at least five or 10 students enrolled. If they do not, they are cut by the time school starts. Jordan explained that the cost of each class is the same -- regardless of size -- and that if every class were kept open, the school would go under.

"If every class had 15 students, the school would go down because we wouldn't be able to pay our expenses," Jordan said.

Jordan also explained that enrollment in college tends to fluctuate depending on the state of the economy, dropping when the economy is strong and rising when it is in a recession.

College enrollment has been declining across the country for the past few years. According to data from LACCD, at least five other colleges from the district, including Pierce College and Southwest College, are also experiencing a decline. Additionally, fall 2018 enrollment in two-year colleges nationwide was down 3.2 percent from the previous year, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

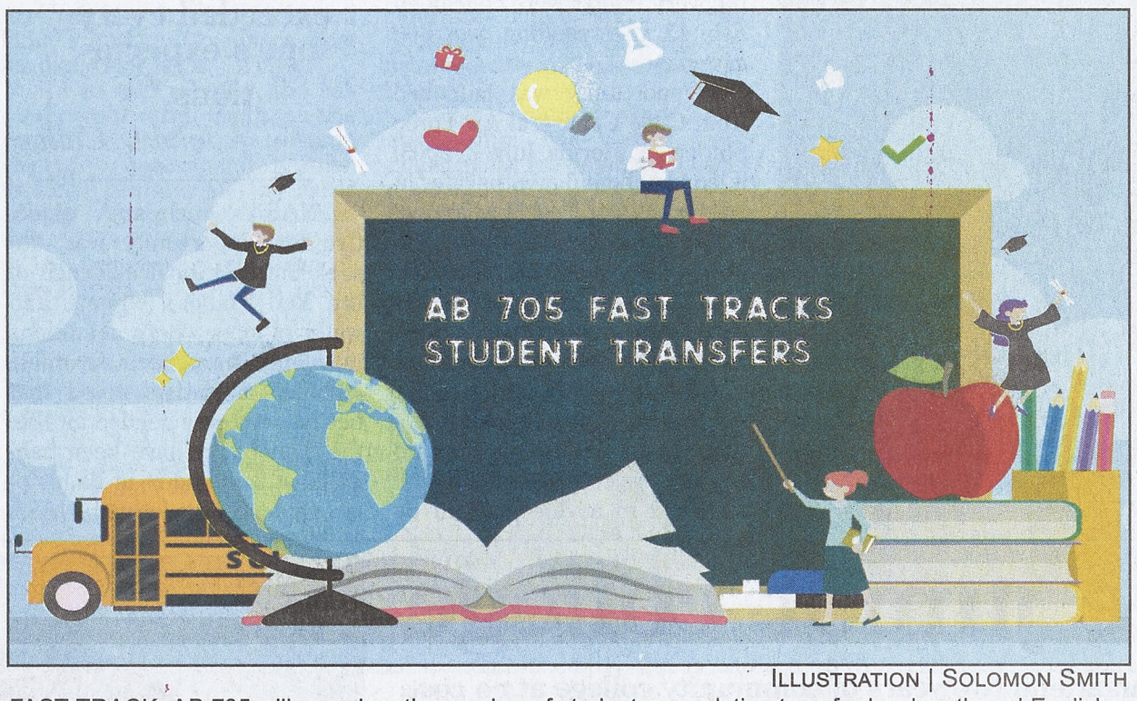


ILLUSTRATION | SOLOMON SMITH

FAST TRACK- AB 705 will speed up the number of students completing transfer-level math and English.

Assembly bill taking effect

The English and math departments are already archiving some of their classes.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Although Assembly Bill 705 is not set to take full effect until fall 2019, Valley College has already begun to cancel classes in preparation.

Passed unanimously by the California Legislature in October 2017, AB 705 is designed to increase the number of students who will complete transfer-level English and math courses within one year. Rather than rely on placement exams, community colleges would be required to use a student's high school coursework, grades or GPA in determining where the student is placed. The bill's goal is to ensure students are not placed in a remedial course unless evidence indicates the student will not succeed in a transfer-level course.

The bill went into effect on Jan. 1, 2018, with the changes set rolling out by the fall 2019 semester. Though the 2018-19 school year is not over, some remedial and basic skills courses are being archived. Within Valley's English department, 15 classes were canceled this semester. Of those 15, half were English 28 courses that will no longer be offered due to the bill.

"I have archived, just while I was chair, English 33, 300 and 21," said English Department Chair William Wallis, "these are all basic-skills courses, and we'll be archiving 28 possibly this summer."

The math department is experiencing a shuffle in classes, as well. According to STEM Counselor Kassidy Miller, there have been some course cancellations though she was unable to give specifics. Miller explained that some prerequisites are being archived while others remain available. However, taking those classes will no longer be required to take Math 215, 238, 245 or 227 -- the transfer-level math courses.

Although the math department will be cutting back on some classes, Miller believes that AB 705 is beneficial for students, getting them through school more quickly.

"The data shows that students who are able to start with transferable-level coursework do just as well as students who took the prerequisite courses," Miller said. "It will help time as well, especially for a lot of our STEM majors. Math is something that takes them a long time."

According to a research study at Los Angeles Mission College conducted during the 2016-17 school year, 52 percent of students had to retake all of high school math due to being placed at least three levels below the transfer level; only 10 percent of students were placed in a transfer-level course.

Under the default placement rules, students with a high school GPA of at least 3.0 have a 75 percent success rate in statistics/liberal arts math. For STEM math classes, students with a GPA at least 3.4 -- or a 2.6 if they're enrolled in a high school calculus class as well -- have the same rate of success.

While Wallis is of the same mind as Miller, he also recognizes the added pressure of making sure students who would have been placed in a basic-skills course make it through successfully.

"I think that the big problem for us as teachers ... is finding the techniques and ideas to teach a broader range of abilities," Wallis said. "I and other administrators have to reduce the number of students in a class, so that the hard work teachers do has a better effect."

While the department chairs see the benefits of AB 705, others see the potential negative outcomes. Saad Mehr, a tutor at the Valley Math Lab, believes that archiving remedial classes will significantly increase the number of students seeking help.

"We have plenty of students who need help with basic math," Mehr said. "It will increase our workload, and we're busy enough already.

ON CAMPUS

March 12

The Men's baseball team will be hosting a Western State Conference game against Bakersfield College at 2:30 p.m.

March 14

The Career/Transfer Center (CTC) will host a CSU Bakersfield admissions representative to meet one-on-one with students at 10 a.m.

March 15

The CTC is offering a field trip to UCLA from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students must reserve a spot and complete a waiver.

March 16

The Music Department is having the All-Steinway Benefit Concert in the Theater Arts Main Stage Theater at 7 p.m. General admission for one costs $25.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystarnews.com

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews

ASU jackets leave some out in the cold

The ASU board reserved funds to buy unique clothing for its own commissioners and staff.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The ASU Executive Committee allocated $1,500 for special jackets to be used by its commissioners and faculty members, frustrating some with their spending.

In a Feb. 26 meeting, the ASU passed a motion 3-2 reserving funds to be used for buying 19 jackets exclusively for its student members and staff. According to the unofficial minutes of the financial meeting, the original starting price was $1,412 but was raised to $1,500 to cover any additional costs. Some ASU members disagreed with the vote while one student went as far as to post his frustrations on social media.

"I hope that someone writes about the waste of money the @LAVC #ASU #StudentGovernmentBoard just spent on 19 jackets for only the current board & fellow [workers] in the office," Eddie Kaufman-Morrow, president of the Eco Advocates Club, said on Twitter. "It cost the students of LAVC $1,500. We could do so much with this money."

"We're student leaders and we should make sure we look professional at all times."

- Elijah Rodriguez

ASU Vice President Sebastian Diaz was one of two who voted against the motion, believing the jackets to be a luxury item.

"Just from the principle of buying apparel for groups, we already shut that down for clubs, so why would we do it ourselves?" Diaz said.

No jackets have been purchased as of yet, but the cost of each breaks down to approximately $55, according to an ASU adviser who wished to remain anonymous due to privacy concerns. According to the adviser, they believe that the total allocated funds won't be exhausted on the jackets and that the clothing could be a good way to promote the ASU.

"My goal here is to get ASU marketing moving along so the students are aware of the benefits we offer," the adviser said, "and really trying to get the best student leaders to represent the student body as a whole."

ASU Commissioner of Publicity Elijah Rodriguez approved of the idea and thinks the jackets will be helpful to their overall image.

"It's just professional attire," Rodriguez said. "We're student leaders and we should make sure we look professional at all times."

The ASU adviser did state that they make it very apparent to the clubs the ASU has money it is willing to lend, even hosting workshops to teach them exactly how ask for it. However, those workshops are often poorly attended. In addition, the adviser believes ASU spending more money is not much of a surprise, given that they represent thousands of students as compared to a club.

"I think that if the clubs have an issue with how much money the ASU is spending, they just need to be more proactive about asking for it," the adviser said, "because I think the ASU will definitely give them the money."

Rodriguez sympathizes with the clubs but thinks that the main obstacle is getting everyone in the ASU on board if clubs wanted to get their own special items.

"If you've done hard work with your club, I feel like you should deserve to have some self-identity with your club," Rodriguez said.

Los Angeles Mission College student government is also looking to get their own unique apparel. According to their ASO office, they are looking to get special T-shirts. Though a budget has not been set, they are looking at a cost of no more than $300.

Tate Coan contributed to this report.

ILLUSTRATION | GABRIEL ARIZON
SPLIT- Some ASU members disagreed with buying the jackets.

Mars rover declared dead

The rover, Opportunity, goes silent after a 15-year mission on Mars.

TATE COAN
ONLINE EDITOR

NASA declared the Mars rover, Opportunity, dead during a press conference Feb. 13 at Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The robot was caught in a martian dust storm last summer, and despite months of trying, scientists have not been able to recover her. The last contact NASA had with Opportunity was back in June before the historic tempest is said to have coated the rover's solar panels in dust. According to NASA, the recovery efforts were concluded Feb. 12 after sending over 800 commands.

Opportunity was launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida July 7, 2003; it landed about 6 months later in January 2004 in what is known as the Meridiani Planum region of the red planet. She was only set to explore the planet for 90 days, but surpassed her expiration date by more than 14 years.

"We said, 'We're gonna operate this vehicle until the day where we can't," said Deputy Project Scientist Abigail Fraeman in a video posted by NASA. "That's exactly what we did, and I'm really proud."

Opportunity was able to contribute many things to the science community during her 15-year journey. Aside from collecting over 217,000 images of Mars, she also found possible evidence of ancient waters.

"When I think of Opportunity, I will recall that place on Mars where our intrepid rover far exceeded everyone's expectations."

- John L. Callas

NASA's primary objective for Opportunity was, "to seek out historical evidence of the Red Planet's climate and water at sites where conditions may once have been favorable for life." Scientists noted that because water is needed for life, the planet may have been habitable at some point in its history. Opportunity helped NASA accomplish exactly what they set out to.

According to Valley College astronomy professor David Falk, the mission of the martian explorer was a "tremendous success ... [NASA] got their money's worth. It was only supposed to last for 90 days, and it ended up lasting for 15 years."

Opportunity experienced a few hard times while working on Mars. In 2005, she got stuck in a Martian sand ripple for almost five weeks, a problem also created by blown dust. Engineers and mission managers cheered with joy when she finally escaped the captivity of the sand.

"When I think of Opportunity, I will recall that place on Mars where our intrepid rover far exceeded everyone's expectations," said John L. Callas of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "But what I suppose I'll cherish most is the impact Opportunity had on us here on Earth ... it's the technical legacy of the Mars Exploration Rovers, which is carried aboard Curiosity and the upcoming Mars 2020 mission. Farewell, Opportunity, and well done."

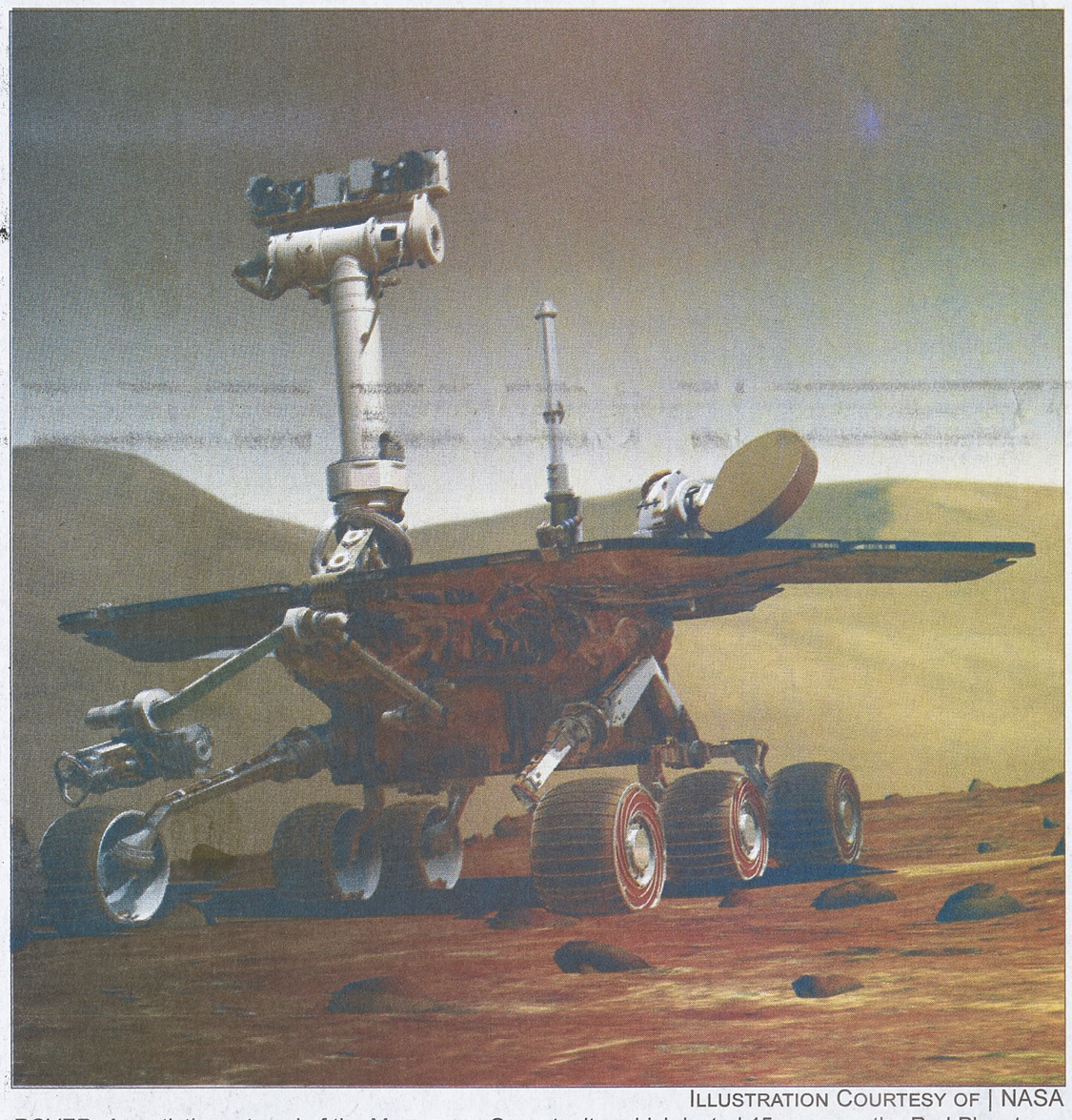


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF | NASA
ROVER- An artist's portrayal of the Mars rover, Opportunity, which lasted 15 years on the Red Planet.

CA policy for free junior college

Gavin Newsom proposed students from all incomes can attend two years of community college at no cost.

JOCELINE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The former mayor of San Francisco who implemented California's first "citywide" free community college is now taking his policy to Sacramento as governor.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Santa Clara University alumnus, wants to strengthen California's educational system by investing in community colleges. He said in order to retain the economic strength of the state, one that is the world's fifth largest economy, education must be a priority.

The new policy, known as Assembly Bill 2, targets middle- and high-income students who aren't covered by the Promise Grant. The grant, which replaced the Board of Governors Fee Waiver, covers all tuition fees for low-income, full-time college students. AB 2 will accommodate independent students and working parents for two years, as stated by EdSource.

"My dyslexia led me on a unique educational journey, one of self-pace and self-discovery," said Newsom in an interview with EdSource. "As a politician, I've voted against every tuition increase, fought the student debt crisis and helped lead the change for Promise Programs across the state."

Los Angeles City College art student Deidra Siles said, "They're telling us we can't get a job unless we have this degree, but you need money to earn this degree. If Assembly Bill 2 were to pass, that would push all people to keep aiming at a four-year university."

This year, California has an estimated $14.8 billion extra dollars in the budget. Newsom will include an additional $40 million in his budget to fund a second year of tuition-free community college, according to Politico California.

"Under the plan, each college district could use their state funding to waive fees or expand student programs while continuing to charge students," Newsom said.

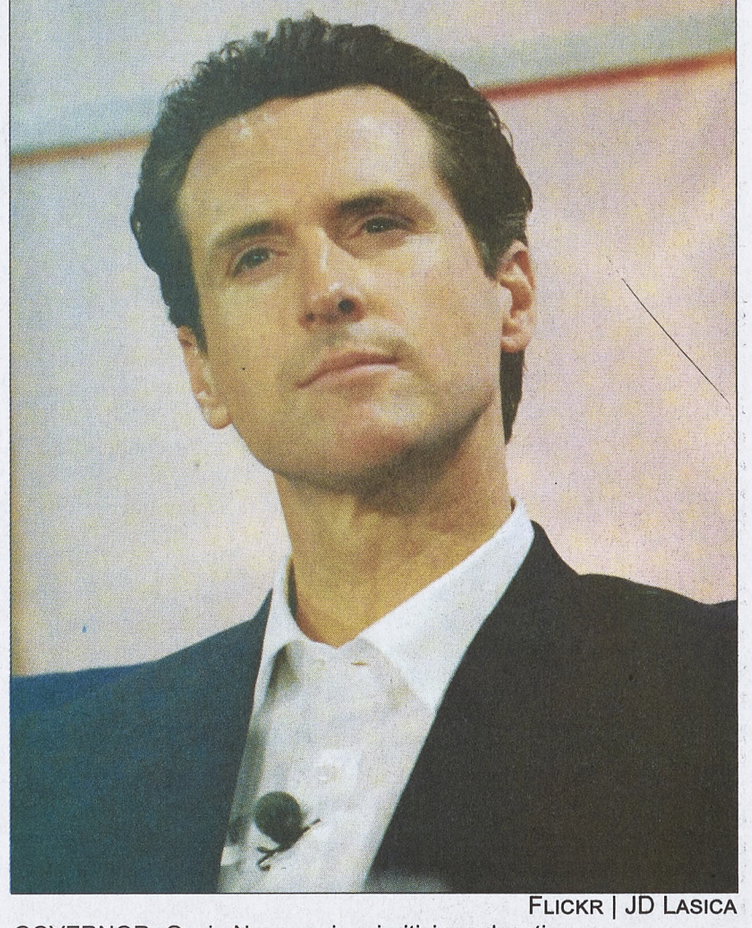
"The plan would give more Californians the opportunity to gain the skills and credentials needed to succeed in today's economy," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley.

If implemented, this would be the first time since 1985 that all California junior colleges become tuition-free. Colleges first charged $5 per unit in 1985. That number rose to $13 per unit in 1995. In 2019, tuition is about 10 times as much, sitting at $46 per unit according to ABC News Sacramento.

"I would love to see this implemented everywhere, not just in California," said Valley business major Daniel Castro, "because that's the stepping block to earning a college degree: having the money for it is always the first worry."

CORRECTION

A Feb. 28 news article about the interim president, Denise Noldon, incorrectly stated her salary as $20,678 from Feb. 11 to June 30. It should have stated her income as $20,678 per month.



FLICKR | JD LASICA
GOVERNOR- Gavin Newsom is prioritizing education.

Movita moves in as Lion Cafe goes extinct

Movita juice bar has taken over the space of the coffee shop to introduce healthier options to students.

THE VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON SMITH

MOVING IN- Employees move boxes into the old Lion Cafe, hiring sign hangs from the window.

MONSERRAT SOLIS
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The familiar format of the former Lion Cafe welcomes students, but the new menu gives them alternative, healthier choices.

Movita introduces healthier options to students, offering everything from smoothies to acai bowls.

"We slowly want to introduce healthier eating habits to students," said Store Manager Wendy Ramirez, "eating healthy gives you more energy, better metabolism, state of mind and mood."

According to Ramirez, the juice bar has been receiving good responses from students. Acai bowls, smoothies and protein bowls are their best sellers.

Movita started out as a small shop in a Northridge gym that quickly grew to eight stores. Ramirez was one of the first employees at the first store; now she manages two.

Other store locations include Reseda, Downey, Valencia and Van Nuys. Two new locations are opening in Long Beach and La Habra soon.

The juice bar was established when one of the two founders lived through a cancer diagnosis with their child. Because of this health scare, the families decided to tackle healthier eating habits. Their idea was based on choosing healthier options– avoiding illness before it starts.

According to a study from the Journal of Nutrition and Health, college students know they should be eating healthier but choose not to.

"Students have a fair knowledge of nutritional requirements for health; however, food choices they make are not necessarily healthy. Convenience and taste of food were priority," the study stated.

It also stated students have a difficult time - dietary dietarywise– while transitioning to college, especially with "limited" food options on campus.

Ramirez mentioned that she wanted to keep cookies, chips and soda available for students for convenience. She initially kept them at eye level, but decided to move them down when sales decreased. "Sometimes in between classes, students don't have time to pick up food," business major Tatiana Bautista said about having healthier options on campus.

Bautista agrees with having a juice bar on campus but is not interested as she brings her own lunch to school.

Peet's coffee will continue to be served as an option for students in need of caffeine.

The juice bar is open 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and is closed on the weekends.

World War I footage gets a stunning face lift

Century-old war footage is given a new life as director Peter Jackson restores film for WWI documentary.

MICKIE SHAW
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The extraordinary World War I documentary "They Shall Not Grow Old" chooses not to focus on the geo-politics or the homefront, but instead depicts the smaller picture: the human experience of the British soldier on the western front.

The restored and colorized images and authentic soundtrack brings the soldiers and the battlefield of WWI to life. The audience sees and hears the details of the war in color: soldiers' wet, mud covered boots traipsing through muddy trenches, brown dirt and red blood on the young soldiers, the emotions on their faces, the soldiers' talking and laughing and explosions of artillery so loud they rattle your insides. The film has a visual depth that the old black-and-white footage cannot reproduce. The documentary feels like a contemporary film.

"They Shall Not Grow Old" begins with an introduction by director Peter Jackson ("Lord of the Rings") and continues with restored black and white footage. Narrated by the voices of WWI veterans -- from interviews the BBC did in the 1960s and 70s -- the documentary follows the soldiers from enlistment, through basic training and their experiences throughout the war. The black and white footage at the beginning dissolves to clear and vivid color once the newly minted soldiers arrive at the western front.

The film is blunt, revealing the carnage of war. Dead bodies -- some with ghastly wounds, some dismembered -- and dead horses litter the screen. The countless wounded and dead were left on the battlefield for the rats to eat. The bright red blood running off soldiers' bodies like water is gut turning.

In an odd rebuttal, the soldiers smile and laugh at the camera when they are resting. Everyday banter and pranks, drinking tea and playing cards occupy them in between battles. Shots of soldiers sleeping in the trenches, lying down or standing up, and having to drink polluted water from old red gas cans were everyday experiences at the front. These century-old historical films have become clear and tactile.

The 124 veterans whose voices guide the viewer though the movie did not see themselves as victims, despite the horrors they survived. With pragmatism and pride, many said they would do it all again, enjoying the camaraderie; one vet said he liked the war. Some joined up for the adventure, and others surreptitiously joined the army underage, one as young as 14.

Approached by the British Imperial War Museum, Jackson was asked to make a unique film using their vast library of World War I film footage to commemorate the centennial of the war's armistice.

Jackson searched through 100 hours of footage and 600 hours of interviews, restoring footage for the documentary and colorizing them. Most of the time and budget spent on the documentary was used for the astonishingly real-looking colorization.

The documentary is engrossing. The viewer feels empathy for the combatants and relates to them on a moving and personal level. "They Shall Not Grow Old" is a fanfare saluting the soldiers that survived the Great War and the 1 million that did not.

VALLEY'S STARS

★★★★★

Rated R
Must Watch Movie
Now playing in theatres.

PHOTO COURTESY OF | WARNER BROS. PICTURES

FILM- Filmmaker Peter Jackson brings WWI film to life using state-of-the-art technology.

Manufacturing Academy a job-making machine

Valley equips students with the skills needed to find a career in the manufacturing industry.

AIMEE MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Students entering the Manufacturing Academy can expect to be equipped for employment after graduating using the skills they obtain in a hands-on, six-week course.

The Manufacturing Academy is a Valley's Job Training Department Sponsored Program. It teaches students a variety of skills: equipment safety, conventional machinery, blueprint reading, inspection and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) programming. The academy's aim is getting work for unemployed individuals who are interested in the manufacturing field.

"This is a career," said CNC programing instructor Aram Ohanis. "You can't mix this up with getting a job at McDonald's or some place where it's temporary."

Following graduation, a job fair is held. According to program manager Roberto Gutierrez, 75 percent of graduates have a job or offer within a week of graudation. However, some students who apply to manufacturing companies around week four or five can secure work through a commitment before they graduate. Often employers will come and speak during training while simultaneously scoping out potential employees. Once a student has been hired, they can return to the academy and build upon their learning.

"Kids grow up not learning that there are all these wonderful opportunities," said Gutierrez. "And you don't have to be in production. You could be on the white collar side of production."

Using the funds from Prop. 39 and a grant from the California Career Pathways Trust, Valley is updating the program's equipment to match the industry's increasing technological advances. The Prop. 39 program funds California's K-12 schools and community college districts for the installation of clean and efficient energy projects. Funding from the California Adult Education program is also helping to pay for the facility's renovation. As part of the California Department of Education, the program provides lifelong educational opportunities and support for adults.

The academy is currently repainting the shop, buying new equipment, installing LED lights and covering the floor in epoxy.

The academy also plan to get new computers and updated simulation machines and will be teaching a new Mastercam manufacturing program. The changes are expected to be completed near spring break. With the new renovations, the academy hopes to attract more students from high schools like Van Nuys, Grant, Monroe, Arleta and Birmingham.

Those who enroll in the program receive funding from various sources including: WorkSource Centers, YouthSource Centers and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. WorkSource Centers fund adults through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act from the Department of Labor. YouthSource centers fund high school dropouts and unemployed graduates through the Federal Workforce Investment Act and a $12 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation Fund.

According to the Labor of Bureau Statistics, Los Angeles leads the nation in manufacturing jobs. As a result, there are many avenues for students in the field, including manufacturing for aerospace, medical devices, automotive aftermarket parts and more. In Los Angeles, the aerospace industry provides big opportunities for graduates. Over 50,000 people are employed in the aerospace and defense industry, according to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

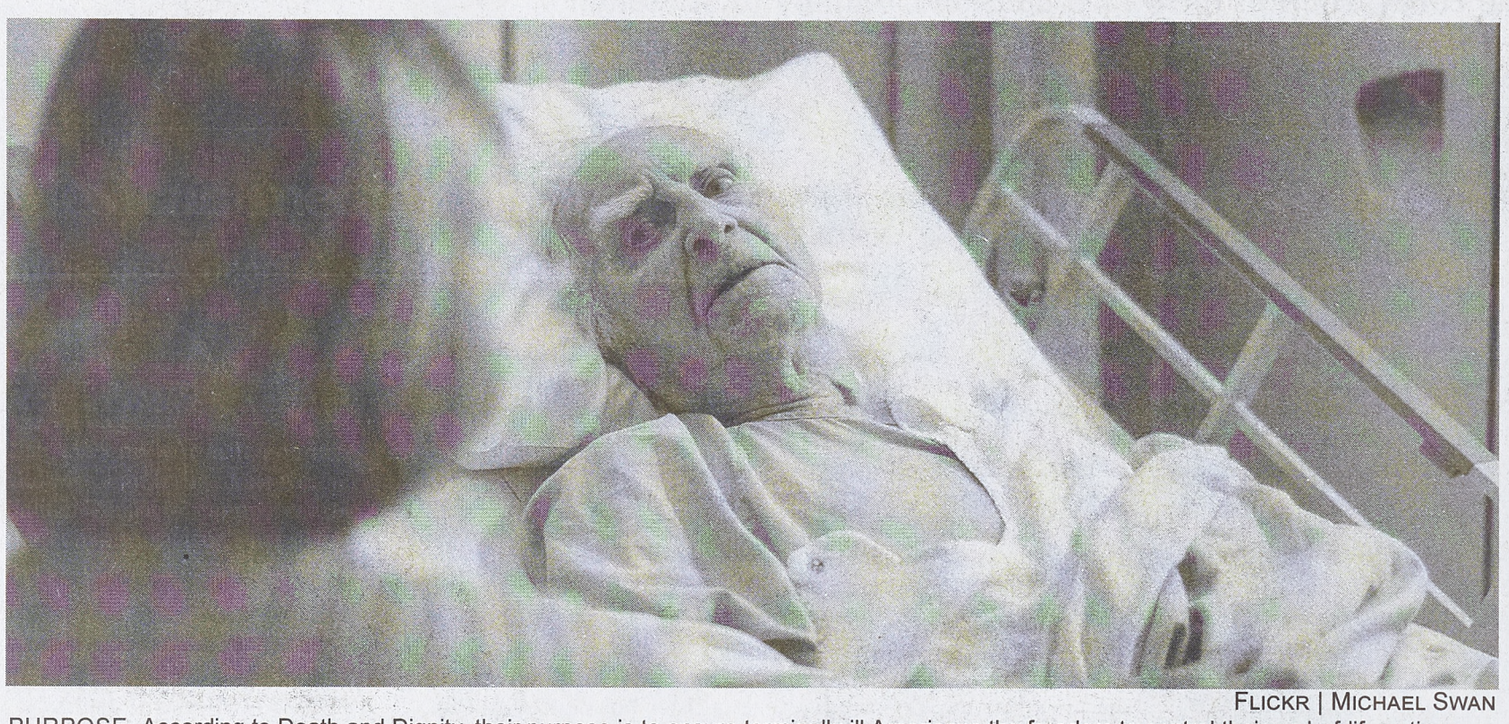
The academy began in 2006 when Valley was awarded a $1.5 million grant on from the Labor Department to advance manufacturing, allowing them to work with the unemployed.

The next academy begins April 8. Orientations take place March 13 and 27 beginning at 10 a.m. in room 108 of the Engineering building. Students interested in joining can apply through their local worksource center, which can be found using the Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Training website. For additional information, email Roberto Gutierrez at gutierrf@lavc.edu or call him at (818) 947-2941.

OPINION

Terminal patients fight for right to die

Patients who are dying should have the right to a dignified death.



FLICKR | MICHAEL SWAN

PURPOSE- According to Death and Dignity, their purpose is to ensure terminally ill Americans the freedom to control their end-of-life options.

AIMEE MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Sheryll Randall was dying from a mitochondrial disease that was slowly attacking her organs. Unable to eat as her body gradually broke down, Randall's suffering became too much for her, and if physician-assisted dying had been legal in Colorado, she could have departed in peace. Instead, she hanged herself.

Right to die laws allow terminally ill adult patients the ability to reclaim control over their circumstances using lethal physician-prescribed medication. The laws empower those likely to die within six months by giving them a chance to have a dignified, pain-free death. In order to ensure that no one ever has to die like Randall and many others do, the following U.S organizations and more have dedicated themselves to fighting for these basic human rights: Death with Dignity National Center, The Final Exit Network and Compassion and Choices.

Six states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation allowing physician-assisted death.

"It seems like the life has been lived, the meaning has been has and the death honors that."
- Barbara Coombs Lee

"A good death is one that seems appropriate," said President of Compassion and Choices Barbara Coombs Lee. "It seems like the life has been lived, the meaning has been had, and the death honors that."

Too often, patients are left suffering as they down pills, endure chemotherapy or undergo multiple surgeries with the promise that it may heal them or prolong their years. Brittany Maynard, however, put an end to her treatment after her tumor came back more aggressive despite two surgical attempts at stopping the growth.

According to CNN, the 29-year-old refused a full brain radiation that would singe her scalp and leave her with first-degree burns.

Instead, she died in a way that honored her life. She spent the end of her days traveling and enjoying her last days with her family before the brain tumor overpowered her with seizures and memory loss as her cognitive functions dwindled.

According to the American Medical Association's code of medical ethics, a physician must provide the patient comfort and care and adequate pain control, however sometimes the ultimate comfort and care for a patient is death.

The Hippocratic oath calls doctors to do no harm to the patient, but by forcing a patient to live in suffering, doctors are causing harm. When doctors help patients die peacefully on their own terms, the patient assumes the control lost in their terminal disease and thus regains psychological peace.

The American Public Health Association states that having the right to die helps the patient psychologically by giving them autonomy, control, and choice.

Gayn Frank who was diagnosed with terminal cancer said, "I have lived with dignity. I want to die with dignity."

Colleges cut students short by eliminating classes

The implementation of AB 705 is starting early, and it doesn't look promising.

MEG TAYLOR
NEWS EDITOR

Lawmakers planned for Assembly Bill 705 to take effect in fall 2019, but community colleges are already implementing the policy by cutting a substantial amount of prerequisite courses from the spring schedule.

AB 705 is a senate bill that automatically places students in college-level English and math courses, subsequently eliminating remedial courses. This was implemented in an effort to improve transfer rates and push community college students to transfer within a two-year time frame. This is great in theory; however, some students need remedial courses to be able to succeed in college-level classes.

"We are moving away from basic skills, which was a complex of courses that included [English] 33, 21, 28 and 300," said William Wallis, Valley's English department chair. "None of them will be offered. They are all being archived. We started a year and a half ago, and we will archive them all coming up, probably in the fall semester."

Laura Hope, the executive vice chancellor of the community college system, and John Stanskas, the president of the Academic Senate, co-wrote a memo last year detailing how colleges should implement the bill and ways in which they could help students who would place in remedial classes.

The memo stated, "Some [students] will be assigned to 'concurrent support' services such as tutors in the classroom or attending extra study hours. One popular type of support is called the corequisite model, a separate class that students take to reinforce key concepts."

According to the California Acceleration Project, concurrent support course are modeled to "focus on the knowledge and skills truly needed for success in the transfer-level course rather than covering the entire traditional cannon of arithmetic and algebra procedures."

Scheduling, pacing and finances are all attributes that can prevent students from seeking tutoring. Also, schools cannot assign students official study hours when they are not in the classroom. Furthermore, the co-requisite model sounds as if colleges are renaming remedial courses to have student enrolled in both remedial and college level courses at the same time.

This is also detrimental to students returning to college years after graduating high school. Taking remedial courses helps refresh their memories and prepare students for college courses. By expunging these basic classes to ease the returning students back into school, it can discourage them from continuing their education.

"I think this might have an impact on some students and not have an impact on other students; it depends on their educational background … you have to level the playing field," said P.J. Moysset, 55-year-old returning Valley student. "I think certain students may never prepare or be able to take the class without the prerequisites."

Mexican media threatened by indigenous actress and star of Roma, Yalitza Aparicio

Indigenous people continue to be the bud of the joke, even with the success of a critcally acclaimed Netflix movie.

MONSERRAT SOLIS
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Academy Award nominee and Mexican Indigenous woman Yalitza Aparicio cannot escape the constant racism, surprisingly, coming from Mexican people.

Aparicio has received attention – both positive and negative, after starring in "Roma," a Netflix film written and directed by Alfonso Cuaron.

The film set in 1970s Mexico City follows two domestic workers; Aparicio plays one, Cleo. She bond with the family she works for after the patriarch runs away with his mistress.

Aparicio is facing a lot of criticism in the Mexican media. Most are attacking her for the color of her skin, and it is ridiculous. Newsflash – there are people who look different than the standard light-skinned Latina bombshell. Racism within the Mexican culture is an issue that has been going on for years.

"Consequently, internalized racism remains one of the most neglected and misunderstood components of racism."
- Sage Journals

"Consequently, internalized racism remains one of the most neglected and misunderstood components of racism," stated Sage Journals, an online journal.

This happens in many cultures; in this situation, the criticism comes from envy because Aparicio, a former pre-K teacher, has broken through in Hollywood.

The Mexican media has not greeted Aparicio with open arms. Many outlets use her name and image to gain attention, not in a positive way.

Television hosts and Mexican actresses have taken shots at Aparicio. Yessica Rosales, a presenter from Televisa's show, La Parodia (spanish for parody show), was a part of a promo in 'brownface,' described as makeup used by white performer playing a South Asian, Latin American person. In the promos for the television show, Rosales, a light-skinned Latina, poked fun at Aparicio.

This is an example that confirms there is still internalized racism.

The show's whole idea is parodying celebrities, but they could have simply gotten someone who looks like her instead of parading a lighter latina and putting a nose prosthetic on her.

Mexico.com, a digital and collaborative website, reported a story of Mexican actor Sergio Goyri who has starred in numerous Mexican soaps and made racist and rude remarks about the Academy award winner. In a video, Goyri called her "una pi--he india…" (translates to f---ing Indian) when talking about her various nominations.

Another example is a rumor started of a group chat between Mexican actresses who were organizing to keep Aparicio off Academia Mexicana de Artes y Ciencias Cinematograficas' radar. The AMACC is the most prestigious award show in Mexico.

The rumor was confirmed by Mexican film director Maria Jose Cuevas on Twitter, after she was asked about it. " Si. Confirmado por varios lados," (translates to "yes, confirmed through various sides") wrote Cuevas.

Racism does not always include a white person against a person of color. Sometimes it can be an issue within a culture. It can be extremely hurtful seeing as Mexico is one of the two largest countries in the Americas that is populated by Indigenous groups, according to CulturalSurvival.org.

MinorityRights.org reports the Indigenous population in Mexico is about 12.7 million people — that's 13 percent of the national population, speaking 62 languages.

For the young boys and girls who do not see themselves on screens or magazines, Aparicio is a beacon of light.

"Roma," won three out of the seven Academy Awards it was nominated for and has been praised for showcasing how beautiful Mexico and its people are. With all the success, we should focus on the representation for Indigenous people not bash them.

VALLEY VIEW | HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT VALLEY CUTTING CLASSES?

TEXT BY ALANA AIMAQ | PHOTOS BY APET SUKIASYAN

"Students need to be trained, especially if they're just getting here."
-CALVIN HAMPTON

"I didn't even know about it. There's a lot of first- and second-generation immigrants that really need those classes. It's like a ladder; they have to climb."
-OSCAR RAV

"In the valley, there are a lot of immigrants. Cutting the opportunity to advance your skills in English isn't good. Sometimes speeding up doesn't always benefit."
-NICOL BARRIOS

"It's not gonna only affect the school system, but also the economy and community system. A decision shouldn't even be made without the student body voting first. "
-NESTER REYES

"I think it's important that we provide education for all levels and that we don't forget that people are at different levels of their growth."
- ARIANA KOCABAY

EDITORS NOTE

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RITE AID PHARMACY

SPORTS

Valley loses close one after coach gets boot

The Lady Monarchs come up short in the bottom of the seventh inning, losing 6-5 on their home field to their rivals College of the Canyons.

VALLEY STAR | APET SUKIASYAN

ACE PITCHER- Hanna Moulton fires a fastball against College of the Canyons, but her effort in the circle was not enough for the Monarchs.

VICENTE VITELA
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Monarchs softball team lost to College of the Canyons 5-6 in the last inning without head coach Greg Venger who was ejected in the bottom of the fourth after arguing a call at first base.

"Nothing changes: we keep battling, and we will come back," said assistant coach Andrea Contreras on what she told the girls after Venger's ejection.

Valley hosted a game that had the feel of a heated rivalry like the Dodgers vs. Giants, as these teams have been long-time rivals. Valley entered play with a 9-3 record and was first place in their division when they squared off against the Cougars, who are always playoff contenders. Hannah Moulton, the Monarchs ace, would get the ball for this one.

"We will come out hungry, aggressive and prepared," said coach Contreras before the game.

Moulton kept the Cougars scoreless in the top half of the first despite allowing the first two batters to reach base safely.

With the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the first, Valley shortstop Belinda Rivera hit an RBI single over the second baseman. And with two outs, the Monarchs' hottest hitter Destiny Velasquez would blast a 2-run single to the left-center gap, giving the Monarchs a three-run lead at the end of the first.

"We still got to work more on scoring runners when they're in scoring position," said Venger after the game, reflecting on where the team needs to improve.

The Cougars, however, would not go away quietly. After two runners would reach base safely with nobody out, a pair of singles and a hard grounder up the middle would knot the game at 3.

Monarch Lauren Lau delivered the go-ahead run, when she grounded out to short, which sent her teammate across the plate, giving Valley a 4-3 lead at the end of the third.

The Cougars would load the bases at the top of the next frame. After a groundball to short, the Monarchs attempted a 6-5-3 double play; however, the runner at first was called safe, and coach Venger argued the call.

After less than 30 seconds, the umpire ejected Venger from the game, and he was forced to leave the field. In addition, Venger would be suspended for the next contest against South Western College. Assistant coaches Contreras and Nicole Toven took over coaching duties for the Monarchs.

"Are you freaking kidding me?" said Venger after the game when asked about his reaction to getting ejected from the game.

Moulton was able to get the last out of the inning, leaving the score 4-4 heading into the bottom of the fourth.

With a scoreless fifth inning and nothing happening in the top of the sixth, the Monarchs would get a runner aboard thanks to a one-out single by Elizabeth Pineda in the bottom of the sixth. Two pitches later, Pineda stole second, putting herself in scoring position. Ashley Acosta would clutch up for the Monarchs, delivering a double to right-center, giving Valley a 5-4 lead heading into the final inning.

A leadoff walk for the Cougars would put the tying run aboard, and after a sacrifice bunt moved the runner into scoring position, Sierra Boyajian would hit a RBI double to left center, tying the game at 5 . With two outs, and the go-ahead run at second, Kaitlyn Post would hit a double to right giving COC a 6-5 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh.

In the Monarchs' last at bat, Velasquez was hit by a pitch, and Ericka Tzciz would hit a liner off the short stop's glove, which gave the Monarchs two runners on with no outs. After a sacrifice bunt moved the runners into scoring position with one out, Valley College would have two chances to tie or win the game.

Unfortunately, a strikeout looking and a groundout back to the pitcher would end the Monarch's chances, giving the Cougars the 6-5 victory.

"It's only one game, and we will make better adjustments next time, and we'll learn from this," said coach Contreras.

This loss would snap the Monarchs four-game winning streak, and after a 5-8 loss to South Western College, the Monarchs now sit at a 9-5 record and third place in their division.

Cheating in sports nothing new

Finding inventive ways to get around the rules in sports has been a part of the game since the days of the peach basket, stick ball in the streets and leather helmets.

VICENTE VITELA
STAFF WRITER

From deflate-gate in the Super Bowl to the steroid era in baseball, cheating and sports go together like ketchup on pancakes -- we may not like it, but people still do it.

Cheating in sports dates back all the way to the first Olympic Games where javelin throwers would shave their equipment in order to make their throw go farther and faster while people involved in wrestling would manipulate the order of matches to receive an unfair advantage. Nowadays, cheating is a blemish on any sport that it effects, and it has at one point or another taken place in the four major American sports: MLB, NFL, NBA and NHL.

One major instance of cheating took place during the "steroids era" in baseball, which started in the late 80s and ran through the early 2000s. It was dubbed the steroids era due to the high number of athletes who were either suspended or admitted to taking anabolic steroids to enhance their performance.

This era saw a substantial increase in offenses compared to the previous decade, in particular, a spike in the long ball. MLB had six straight years of double-digit players hitting 40 homers or more, and in 2001, Barry Bonds hit 73 home runs, a single season record still held to this day. Cheating in baseball can also be linked back to the Black Sox scandal, which took place during the 1919 World Series. In this case, eight players from the Chicago White Sox, highlighted by "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, one of the first celebrities of baseball, purposely threw the World Series allowing the Cincinnati Reds to win in exchange for money. All eight man were acquitted in court, but were later banned for life from MLB.

While the NFL has been at the center of the most recent controversy, one constant in the sport has been its involvement in cheating. The most recent case of cheating took place during the 2015 AFC Championship game which saw the Patriots deliberately using deflated balls, which giving Tom Brady, 38 at the time, an advantage considering his increase in age and decrease in ability to throw the deep pass. The Patriots were later charged $1 million, a four game suspension for Brady, and the forfeiture of first round picks.

Cheating in sports dates back all the way to the first Olympic Games.

Another blatant display of cheating occurred when Pittsburgh Steelers head coach, Mike Tomlin, prevented Baltimore Ravens returner Jacoby Jones from running back a punt for a touchdown by standing in his path. This forced Jones to slow down, which led to his eventual tackle. Tomlin was later fined $100,000 for the incident.

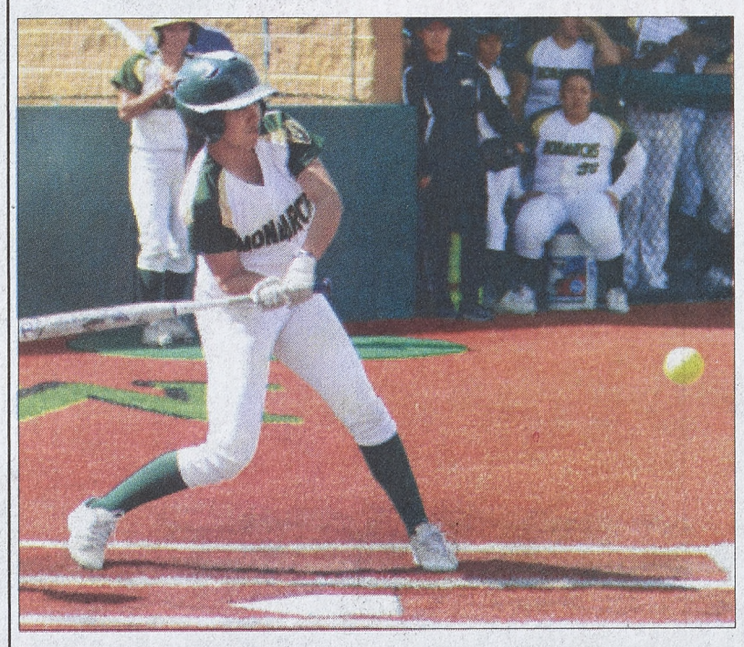
The NBA and its players have also had their share of interactions with the law already branding the sport with a bad boy image. Because of this attitude of acceptance towards cheating, many rule breakers have fallen through the cracks. Although it has not been as extreme as in other sports, there have been quite a few game-changing acts like the situation with the Boston Celtics. Dead spots on the court where the ball would not bounce as high were avoided by the Celtics while they forced opponents into those spots to gain an advantage. Another instance occurred when a player from the Washington Wizards tugged on the shorts of a player on the Portland Trailblazers while he was near the Wizards bench, causing him to be out of position on the set play.

The NHL, a winter sport and primarily played in countries with colder temperatures, takes cheating more seriously than other sports. That being said, the league has also had its fair share of cheating take place. There have been quite a few players who have been caught using illegal equipment, most notably illegal sticks. Hockey players who are caught with modified sticks often have thinner blades at the bottom and thicker handles, giving them better grip and faster release on the puck. Another instance of cheating includes players illegally removing goal posts in order to avoid points from counting; once the net is removed from its original place anything that occurs after is null and void.

The good news is that cheating has toned down due to advances in technology, which has deterred people from attempting to break the rules or at least has forced people to come up with a more creative way to cheat the system. Syrup belongs on pancakes, and hopefully we see a decrease in ketchup on pancakes.

CURTESEY OF DALE BECK

BLAST FROM THE PAST- Valley College continues its winning ways on the softball filed. Last year the Lady Monarchs squared offf against the Bakerfield Renegades at home.



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